

REMARKS

This response is submitted in response to an Office Action transmitted on January 17, 2007. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-16, 18 and 19 were pending at the time of the Office Action. Applicant hereby cancels claim 12, amends claims 1, 6-7, 13-16 and 18-19. Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, and 18-19 remain pending.

In the interest of reducing the issues to be considered in this response, the following remarks focus principally on the patentability of independent claims 1 and 19. The patentability of each of the dependent claims is not necessarily separately addressed in detail. However, Applicant's decision not to discuss the differences between the cited art and each dependent claim should not be considered as an admission that Applicant concurs with the conclusions set forth in the Office Action that these dependent claims are not patentable over the disclosure in the cited references. Similarly, Applicant's decision not to discuss differences between the prior art and every claim element, or every comment set forth in the Office Action, should not be considered as an admission that Applicant concurs with the interpretation and assertions presented in the Office Action regarding those claims. Indeed, Applicant believes that all of the dependent claims patentably distinguish over the references cited. Moreover, a specific traverse of the rejection of each dependent claim is not required, since dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which the dependent claims ultimately depend.

I. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicant respectfully expresses appreciation to Examiner Tan Le for the telephone interview held on March 14, 2007, during which the Examiner discussed the disposition of this case with the undersigned attorney. Specifically, the Examiner and the undersigned attorney discussed the difference between claim 1 and the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,158,555 to Brown Jr. (hereinafter “Brown Jr.”), as well as an amendment to claim 1 that clarifies the function of the “one mechanical drive mechanism.” Applicant believes that agreement was reached regarding the adequacy of the clarification regarding the “one mechanical drive mechanism.”

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 19 were objected to because the function of the “one mechanical drive mechanism” is unknown. Applicant has amended each of the claims 1 and 19 to clarify the function of the “one mechanical drive mechanism.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections to claims 1 and 19.

Claims 3, 5, and 19 were objected to because they lack antecedent basis for “the attachment surface” in each claim. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 19 to recite an “attachment surface,” to provide antecedent basis for claims 3, 5, and 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections to claims 3, 5, and 19.

Claim 12 was objected to as being redundant to claim 1. Applicant has cancelled claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AU Patent No. 200,223,231 to Nagle *et al.* (hereinafter "Nagle"), in view of Brown Jr. (U.S. 6,158,555). Applicant traverses the rejections, and submits that the claims are allowable over the cited Nagle and Brown Jr. references, for at least the reasons explained in detail below.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, and 18

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

1. A cable drop support system comprising:
 - a base configured for attachment to an attachment surface;
 - one or more segments connected to the base;
 - a cable receptacle attached to an end portion of the at least one segment, the cable receptacle having a generally U-shaped cross-section for receiving therein at least an intermediate portion of a cable;
 - a control system operatively associated with the cable drop support system, the control system configured for receiving instructions communicated through at least one communication media;
 - a portable communication device configured to provide instructions to the control system through the at least one communication media; and
 - at least one mechanical drive mechanism operatively coupled to respond to the control system, the at least one mechanical drive mechanism configured to at least one of extend and retract the one or more segments.

First, Applicant respectfully submits that Nagle fails to teach or suggest every aspect of claim 1. As noted by the Examiner, Nagle teaches a telescopic

support pole, but does not teach a control system or a mechanical driving system for its telescopic support pole. (Office Action, Page 3, Lines 4-10). Accordingly, Nagle cannot teach or suggest, “a *portable communication device* configured to provide instructions *to the control system* through the at least one communication media,” as recited in claim 1. (emphasis added).

Second, the deficiencies of Nagle are not remedied by the teachings of Brown Jr. In contrast, as noted by the examiner, Brown Jr. teaches a control panel 16 that is “generally *mounted to the exterior of the vehicle 2*, and affords control of the extension and retraction of mast 4...” (emphasis added). (Column 2, Lines 45-48). Therefore, Brown Jr. also cannot teach or suggest, “a *portable communication device* configured to provide instructions to the control system through the at least one communication media.” (emphasis added).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, the cited references to Nagle and Brown Jr., whether individually or in combinations, fail to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest every aspect of claim 1. Moreover, since claims 3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, and 18 depend from claim 1, they are allowable at least due to their dependency, as well as due to the additional features each recites.

Claim 19

Claim 19, as amended, recites:

19. A cable drop support system comprising:
a base configured for attachment to an attachment surface,
wherein the attachment surface includes a surface
portion area of a service vehicle;
a first segment connected to the base;
at least a second segment attached to the first segment, the
first and second segments being structured in a
telescoping configuration;

- a cable receptacle attached to an end portion of one of the segments, the cable receptacle having a generally upwardly open U-shaped cross-section for receiving therein an intermediate portion of a cable and for supporting the intermediate portion of the cable;
- a control system operatively associated with the cable drop support system, the control system configured for receiving instructions communicated through at least a wireless communication media; and
- at least one mechanical drive mechanism operatively coupled to respond to the control system, the at least one mechanical drive mechanism configured to at least one of extend and retract the first and second segments.

First, Applicant respectfully submits that Nagle fails to teach or suggest, as recited in claim 19, “a control system operatively associated with the cable drop support system, the control system configured *for receiving instructions communicated through at least a wireless communication media.*” (emphasis added). As noted by the Examiner, Nagle teaches a telescopic support pole, but does not teach a control system or a mechanical driving system for its telescopic support pole. (Office Action, Page 3, Lines 4-10).

Second, the deficiencies of Nagle are not remedied by the teachings of Brown Jr. As noted by the examiner, Brown Jr. teaches a control panel 16 that is “generally *mounted to the exterior of the vehicle 2*, and affords control of the extension and retraction of mast 4...” (Column 2, Lines 45-48). However, Brown Jr. does not teach that its control panel 16 is capable of “*receiving instructions communicated through at least a wireless communication media,*” as recited in claim 1.

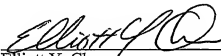
Accordingly, for at least the reasons stated above, the cited references to Nagle and Brown Jr., whether individually or in combinations, fail to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest every aspect of claim 19.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-11, 13-16, and 18-19 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 
Elliott Y. Chen
Reg. No. 58,293
Lee & Hayes, PLLC
421 W. Riverside Ave, Suite 500
Spokane, WA 99201
Phone: (206) 315-4001 x104
or (206) 315-7914
Fax: (206) 315-4004